

Edwards Rejects Black Panel's

By CHARLES LAYTON
BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)
— Louisiana Gov. Edwin W. Edwards has rejected as biased and unobjective an all black investigating committee's report that police, state officials and Southern University administrators are to blame for campus violence in which two students died.
"I think it's as much a blackwash as they accuse the

state of a whitewash," Edwards said Wednesday.

An official state investigating committee planned to reconvene today to interview the head of the university's campus police and other Southern officials.

Blacks who distrusted the official investigation, headed by state Atty. Gen. William Guste, held two days of hear-

ings in a Baton Rouge labor hall this week. They concluded the black students were behaving peacefully when officers opened fire on them.

Berkeley, Calif., City Councilman D'army Bailey, co-chairman of the panel, said committee members unanimously agreed there is "more than a adequate reason for criminal prosecution of those responsible for the deaths."

Denver Smith, 20, and Douglas Brown, 20, both Louisiana residents and students at the predominantly-black university, died of buckshot wounds as sheriff's deputies and state police cleared students from the front of the school's administration building.

Edwards was the only white witness to appear before the panel. He told them students had occupied the administration building and refused to leave on police orders.

"It was my feeling," the governor said of the commit-

tee's report, "that very few of the members of the panel had come to Louisiana with an open mind. I think it was an attempt to portray this incident as something it was not, namely, a black-white conflict."

Edwards said the violence at Southern stemmed from a dispute between black students and black administrators, and that white politicians and law officers only intervened as peacemakers.

"It's impossible to rationalize how black people 2,000 miles away can come down here and in two days try to reconstruct what happened," he said.

The all-black panel was composed of Louisiana politicians, plus politicians, lawyers and educators from out of state.

The black panel concluded: —Students had not occupied the administration building, as university officials maintained.

THE STATES-ITEM

NEW ORLEANS

S. U. Report as Biased, Unobjective

—Prior to the violence student protesters made sincere efforts to negotiate their complaints, while university administrators "acted in bad faith."

—Police officers called to the campus by the administration behaved in an undisciplined manner, used more force than necessary and precipitated the violence by toss-

ing the first tear gas.

—"The sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish, Al Amis, was emotionally and professionally ill-equipped to deal with the situation" and dis-

played "a clear and wanton disregard for human life."

—Edwards was "irresponsible in his public statements" concerning alleged lawbreaking by students.